Amendments to the Claims:

1. (withdrawn): A method of managing inventory comprising the steps of:

digitally watermarking objects, each watermark including a unique identifier;

recording the unique identifiers in a database; and

updating the database to reflect activity of the watermarked objects.

2. (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of directly applying a watermark to an object surface.

3. (withdrawn): The method of claim 2, wherein a handheld printer directly applies the watermark.

4. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the activity of the watermarked object includes one of shelving, sale, purchase, return, and damage recognition activity.

5. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of reading a watermarked item with a handheld computing device.

6. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the unique identifier include a product type identifier.

7. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the unique identifier further includes a product count number.

8. (withdrawn): A monetary object for use in commerce, the monetary object including a digital watermark comprising a denomination identifier for the monetary object.

9. (withdrawn): The monetary object according to claim 8, wherein said

watermark further comprises a source identifier.

10. (withdrawn): A method of determining the size of a momentary object comprising the steps of:

decoding a watermark embedded in a monetary object, the watermark including data corresponding to the denomination of the monetary object; and

based on the data, determining feedback to indicate the denomination of the monetary object; and

providing the feedback.

11. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the provided feedback is an audible announcement of the denomination of the monetary object.

12. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the provided feedback comprises Braille typography indicating the denomination of the monetary object.

13. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the provided feedback comprises a series of audible sounds.

14. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the provided feedback comprises Braille feedback.

15. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein a handheld computing device decodes the watermark.

16. (withdrawn): A method of managing documents comprising the steps of:

digitally watermarking a document to include a document history identifier;

storing the document history identifier in a database, and associating related document history with the document history identifier; and

decoding the identifier from the digital watermark, and indexing the database with the identifier to access the related document history.

17. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 16, wherein the related document history comprises document version information.

18. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 17, wherein the document version information includes both version information pertaining to the document, and information pertaining to a later version.

19. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 16, wherein the related document history comprises one of document version data, creation time, author and last edited information.

20. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 16, wherein the identifier comprises at least document version information.

21. (withdrawn): A method of managing documents comprising the steps of:
digitally watermarking the document to include a document history identifier;
decoding the identifier from the digital watermark to obtain the document history identifier, the identifier including at least document version information.

22. (currently amended): A method of printing documents in a network, the network comprising a steganographic decoder ~~watermark decoding device, a database for at least associating electronic files with unique identifiers,~~ and a plurality of printing devices, wherein the network includes or communicates with a database, and wherein the database associates electronic files with plural-bit identifiers, said method comprising:

~~associating in the database a unique identifier that is digitally watermarked within a physical document with an electronic copy of the document;~~

~~decoding the digital watermark~~ receiving a plural-bit identifier, wherein the plural bit identifier is obtained from steganographic encoded data that is decoded from optical scan data, and wherein the optical scan data corresponds to a steganographically encoded physical document, and wherein the steganographic encoding comprises the plural-bit identifier, and wherein said decoding is carried out by ~~with~~ the steganographic decoder ~~watermark decoding device~~ to retrieve the plural-bit ~~unique~~ identifier;

determining an ~~the~~ associated electronic copy of the document through communication with the database which, with at least reference to the plural-bit identifier, identifies the associated electronic copy of the document;

determining at least one of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to, wherein said determining at least one of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced by at least one of a location of the steganographic decoder, a location of the physical document and a location of an optical scanner which generated the optical scan data; and

rendering the electronic copy of the document to the determined printing device.

23. (currently amended): The method according to claim 22, wherein the steganographic decoder watermark decoding device comprises a handheld computing device.

24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 22, wherein the determined printing device comprises [[is]] a printing device located closest to the steganographic decoder. watermark decoding device.

25. (currently amended): The method according to claim 22, wherein the database comprises a remote database.

26. (withdrawn): A method of verifying a ticket stored on a handheld computing device, the handheld computing device having a display to display the ticket, the ticket including a digital watermark having an identifier, said method comprising the steps of:

upon presentment of a displayed electronic ticket, decoding the digital watermark from the displayed ticket to retrieve the identifier; and

verifying the ticket based on the identifier.

27. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 26, wherein said verifying step comprises the step of comparing the identifier to a set of preauthorized identifiers, wherein when the identifier is included in the set of preauthorized identifiers, the ticket is verified.

28. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 26, wherein said verifying step comprises the step of comparing the identifier to a set of preauthorized identifiers, wherein when the identifier is not included in the set of preauthorized identifiers, the ticket is not verified.

29. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 26, wherein said verifying step comprises the step of accessing an online-database to determine whether the identifier is listed in the database.

30. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, wherein the on-line database comprises a listing of authorized tickets, categorized by identifiers.

31. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 26, wherein the ticket comprises at least one of a ticket image, an authorization code, text, an image, a data file, a text file, an audio signal, a video signal, and an image signal.

32. (withdrawn): A method of gaining entry to an event or movie comprising the steps of:

purchasing a ticket online and receiving an electronic ticket, the electronic ticket being stored in a handheld computing device, the handheld computing device comprising a display, wherein the electronic ticket includes a digital watermark embedded therein; and

displaying the electronic ticket on the display, and presenting the display to a watermark reading device, which decodes the watermark.

33. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 32, wherein entry is gained when the watermark is verified.

34. (withdrawn): A handheld apparatus to read a digital watermark embedded within an object, said apparatus comprising:

an input device to capture an image of at least a portion of the object;

a display device;

memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to purchasing a ticket online and receive an electronic ticket, the electronic ticket being stored in the handheld apparatus, and wherein the electronic ticket includes a digital

watermark embedded therein, and to display the electronic ticket on the display; and

electronic processing circuitry to execute the software instructions.

35. (withdrawn): A handheld computing device comprising:

a display including a plurality of pixel elements; and

a set of microlens, wherein each of the set of microlens corresponds with a pixel element, wherein the microlens a polarized and are arranged to create a pattern, the pattern corresponding to a unique identifier for the device.

36. (withdrawn): A method of identifying a handheld device, the handheld device comprising a display, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a polarized luminance pattern on the display; and

correlating the pattern with a unique identifier.

37. (new): The method of claim 22, wherein said determining which out of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced through user selection.

38. (new): The method of claim 22, wherein the network includes or communicates with the optical scanner, and wherein said determining which out of the plurality of printing devices to render the electronic copy of the document to is influenced by a location of the optical scanner.

39. (new): A method comprising:

receiving optical scan data corresponding to a printed object, wherein the optical

scan data is provided by a handheld computing device that includes an optical sensor;

analyzing the optical scan data to obtain a steganographic message embedded

therein, wherein the steganographic message comprises plural-bit data; and

triggering rendering of an electronic document that is associated with the plural

bit data through communication of the plural-bit data to a network resource, wherein the

electronic document is rendered by a rendering device identified from a plurality of

possible rendering devices, and wherein an identification of the rendering device is

influenced by at least a location of the handheld computing device, and wherein the

rendering device and the handheld computing device are separate devices.

40. (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the rendering device comprises a

printer.

41. (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the handheld computing device

further comprises a steganographic message decoder.

42. (new): The method of claim 41, wherein the steganographic message

decoder comprises a digital watermark decoder.

43. (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the communication comprises

wireless communication.

44. (new): The method of claim 39, further comprising receiving a message from the network resource indicating at least one of a location of the rendering device and an identification of the rendering device.

45. (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the location of the handheld computing device comprises at least a physical location.